

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 AID-05 EB-07 /073 W

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O 160735Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1562

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJECT: INITIAL GOP REACTION TO BANGLADESH COUP

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S STATEMENT ANNOUNCING  
RECOGNITION OF NEW BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT WAS RELEASED  
TO PRESS AT ABOUT 2300 LOCAL TIME, SHORTLY AFTER  
FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI HAD INFORMED  
AMBASSADOR OF DECISION.

2. TEXT, CERTAINLY WARMEST GOP HAS EVER SENT TO  
DACCA, DIFFERS SOMEWHAT FROM THAT PASSED TO  
DEPARTMENT BY PAK EMBASSY WASHINGTON (STATE 194773  
NOTAL). IT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"AS A FIRST AND SPONTANEOUS GESTURE TO THE FRATERNAL  
PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH, I HAVE DECIDED TO IMMEDIATELY  
DISPATCH TO BANGLADESH AS A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE OF  
PAKISTAN 50,000 TONS OF RICE, 10 MILLION YARDS OF  
LONG CLOTH AND FIVE MILLION YARDS OF BLEACHED MULL.  
THIS IS ONLY A MODEST CONTRIBUTION OF OUR PEOPLE  
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TO OUR BROTHERS IN BANGLADESH IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED

AND IN TOKEN OF THE SENSE OF INDESTRUCTIBLE SOLIDARITY WHICH TRANSCENDS THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF 1971."

"WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION WITHIN OUR CAPACITY FOR THE WELL BEING OF THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH WITH WHOM WE HAVE SHARED COMMON NATIONHOOD AND DESTINY. LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT WE STAND TOGETHER IN WEAL AND WOE."

"WE RESPECTFULLY URGE THE STATES MEMBERS OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE TO ACCORD RECOGNITION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH AND WE APPEAL TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD TO DO LIKEWISE. THIS APPEAL STEMS FROM OUR ANGUISHED AWARENESS OF HOW OUR COUNTRY WAS DISMEMBERED BY AN INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY CULMINATING IN AGGRESSION."

"I GRIEVE THAT SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY HAVE MET A TRAGIC END."

3. MFA SPOKESMAN, EXPLAINING DECISION, SAID RECOGNITION WAS ACCORDED BECAUSE THE NEW GOVERNMENT MET ALL THE TESTS FOR RECOGNITION UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL LAW IN THAT ITS AUTHORITY IS UNCHALLENGED AND HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE PEOPLE OF BANGLADESH.

4. DECISION FOLLOWED ANXIOUS DAY OF DACCA WATCHING BY GOP DURING WHICH FOREIGN MINISTRY KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EMBASSY AND OTHERS HERE IN EFFORT TO SUPPLEMENT WHAT IT WAS ABLE TO PICK UP FROM WIRE SERVICES AND MONITORING OF BANGLADESH RADIO. IN OUR EXCHANGES, MFA SENIOR AND WORKING LEVEL OFFICERS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT GOI AND SOVIET REACTION AND, MORE SPECIFICALLY, ABOUT PROSPECT SPEED WITH WHICH GOP RECOGNIZED NEW BD REGIME AND CALL ON OTHER ISLAMIC STATES TO FOLLOW SUIT MAY HAVE BEEN PROMPTED IN PART BY HOPE THIS MIGHT HELP FEND OFF FEARED POSSIBILITY OF INDIAN MILITARY MOVE.

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5. INITIAL GOP REACTION TO LEADERSHIP OF MUSHTAQ AHMED HAS BEEN FAVORABLE, THOUGH PAKS RECOGNIZE THAT AT THIS EARLY STAGE IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHO WILL WIELD EFFECTIVE POWER IN NEW GOVERNMENT HE HEADS. THEY CONSIDER HIM MODERATE, SHREWD, COOL, RIGHTWING POLITICIAN AND RECALL THAT AS FOREIGN MINISTER IN MUJIBNAGAR GOVERNMENT HE HAD FAVORED A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WITH PAKISTAN. THEY CITE HIS HARDLINE

ROLE IN THE FARRAKA BARRAGE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOI AND HIS SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER FROM THE IRRIGATION TO THE COMMERCE MINISTRY AS EVIDENCE THAT HE IS NO FIREND OF INDIA. PAKS' WARM STATEMENT OF RECOGNITION AND PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE IS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO GET THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW GOVERNMENT OFF TO THE BEST POSSIBLE START. THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT IN TIME THEY WILL BE MORE ABLE TO WORK WITH THIS GOVERNMENT THAN THEY WERE WITH MUJIB'S TO IRON OUT THE DIFFERENCES WHICH IN THE PAST YEAR HAVE STYMIED EFFORTS TO NORMALIZE PAK-BD RELATIONS. FACT THAT NEW REGIME STYLES ITSELF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC AND HAS REPORTEDLY DECLARED ITS INTENTIONS TO SEEK TIES "WITH COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO HAVE FRIENDSHIP IN THE PAST", CERTAINLY REINFORCES THESE HOPES.

6. PRESS REPORTS PAK CABINET WILL MEET TODAY TO DISCUSS BD DEVELOPMENTS. WE EXPECT TO HAVE MORE CNSIDRED REPORT EARLY NEXT WEEK ON PAK ASSESSMENT OF NEW GOVERNMENT AND WHAT GOP BELIEVES CHANGES IN DACCA MEANS FOR RELATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA.  
BYROADE

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